

BPL (broadband over powerline)
issue, the most serious threat the hobby has ever encountered.

I have a few questions, on BPL (broadband over power line), that I feel any and all government approving agencies should ask before they make a decision on disabling any existing service i.e. (HAM - HF services, TV reception, AM reception, etc.).

1. First why is this BPL needed and what will it provide for the public?

Today there are already many "high speed" radio Internet accesses available to the public and/or businesses. Just a few open services are the 802.11a (5GHz), the 802.11b (2GHz), and 802.11g (That uses both frequency ranges). The 802.11b was limited to T1 but this has improved where the 802.11a and the 802.11g can provide service in the 10 MB/s range and in some cases up to 45 MB/s point to point. I have to question the real reason for this service. These services are low power and can be reused several times in one area.

2. What company is going to control and profit from this BPL technology?

It looks to me that the power company is looking to control and monopolize the "High speed" Internet access service. The power company already has fiber cables running in their cross-country high power lines and today they are selling service to anyone with enough money. Does the government really want to place control of communication in the hands of the power companies or should the power companies be responsible for providing power? This service, if controlled by the power Co. could also easily put many existing Internet service providers out of business.

3. Is this new radiation, including any and all harmonics, coming from all power lines going to affect human and animal life, from RF radiation 24 hr per day. How are existing services like AM radio, TV etc. going to be affected? You have to look at harmonics and IF mixing into and from all radio equipment.

4. The last question is I thought there was an agency that should help coordinate radio frequencies in the US or is it going to turn into a free for all?

Today if a new frequency request interferes with another existing user then the interferer needs to come up with another plan of operation. I do not see how this new service is going to help anyone except the power companies. This entire service seems to have been misleading and needs to be evaluated with and by all services.

George Silver
Staff Engineer
WB4-DVP